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<https://shownotes.app/show/ystone>

Yellowstone Trip 2024

I am super excited about making a group (family and friends) trip to Yellowstone in the Summer of 2024. Here, you will find all notes on Yellowstone related to traveling accommodations and exploring this super volcano's impressive beauty and wonder!

RELATED NOTES:

- [Activities Beyond Sight Seeing!](#)
- [Where to Stay \(Airbnbs\)](#)

ATTRACTIONS:

[Old Faithful](#), [Grand Prismatic Spring](#), [Yellowstone Lake](#), [Norris Geyser Basin](#), [Mammoth Hot Springs](#), [Uncle Tom's Trail](#), and [West Thumb and Grant's Village](#)

YOUTUBE PLAYLIST:

[Great Videos By a History Teacher](#)

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AI AGENTS HAVEN'T YET REVIEWED THIS NOTE!

Flying or Driving to Yellowstone?

We have multiple routes to fly from SMF to Yellowstone:

- SMF to Salt Lake City (SLC) - a direct flight is possible, and a five-hour drive to Yellowstone is required
- SMF to Bozeman (BZN) - a flight to LAS or DAN and then another flight to BZN, and a two-hour drive is required

Status

- At least two families are flying to BZN via LAS on Southwest.
- A group of families are driving to Yellowstone.

Be Advised:

- I have been informed that getting a car rental is becoming increasingly difficult from BZN.

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Where to Stay?

The group will be divided into multiple Airbnb and hotels:

- Five families have booked an Airbnb with six bedrooms and a large (4 king bed) kids room in Island Park, ID
- A single family will stay in their own Airbnb in the same area
- Other families have not finalized those accommodations yet

Most families want to visit the large Airbnb where the five families stay for ongoing adda, food, and entertainment.

Status:

- The five family Airbnbs max out at 20 persons. Currently, we have 18 people. A two-person family can join at \$590/person rate.

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Top 10 Things to Do in Yellowstone

Grand Prismatic Spring

As the largest hot spring in the US and third-largest in the world, it spans 200–330 feet and boasts stunning rainbow-like hues. These vibrant colors result from diverse microbial life and varying water temperatures, attracting global visitors to appreciate its beauty and the complexity of nature.



Old Faithful Geyser

Old Faithful Geyser is a renowned natural wonder known for its predictable and captivating eruptions. As one of the park's most popular attractions, this iconic geyser shoots a column of boiling water and steam up to 180 feet high every 60–110 minutes, showcasing the powerful geothermal forces at play beneath the Earth's surface and offering visitors a unique and memorable glimpse into the beauty and power of nature.



Grand Canyon of Yellowstone

The Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone, a striking geological masterpiece carved by the Yellowstone River, stretches an impressive 20 miles long and plunges 800-1,200 feet deep. Formed through a remarkable blend of volcanic eruptions, hydrothermal activity, glaciers, and floods, this picturesque canyon showcases breathtaking waterfalls, vibrant rocks, and mesmerizing thermal areas, revealing the region's rich geological past and enchanting present.

The Abyss Pool

The Abyss Pool of Yellowstone, located in the West Thumb Geyser Basin, is a fascinating and enigmatic hot spring. As one of the deepest hot springs in Yellowstone National Park, plunging an impressive 53 feet (16 meters) deep, its dark green waters create an illusion of bottomlessness. The coloration is due to the unique microbial life thriving in its thermal environment. A testament to the dynamic nature of Yellowstone's geothermal landscape, the pool's activity has varied throughout the years, with eruptions reaching up to 100 feet in the 1990s.



Videos to watch

Here are some videos that I liked and watched to make my notes on areas of interests within Yellowstone Park.

A list of top 10 sites to visit:

1. **Grand Canyon of Yellowstone** - must see!
2. **Old Faithful** - next to the Old Faithful Inn and the Morning Glory hot spring!
3. **Grand Prismatic Spring** - 3rd largest hot spring in the world!
4. **Upper Fall** - Great view from the top of the waterfall. Awesome looking!!
5. **Hayden valley** - wild life. good to drive thru and more convenient.
6. **Lamar Valley** - off main loop, best chances for seeing bears and wolfs. Harder to get to!
7. **City of Mammoth** - terraces, cascading hot spring. Boiling river you can soak in, Rosevelt Arc.
8. **West Thumb** - geyser basen, lower loop, small but its next to Yellowstone lake! Very scenic!
9. **Norris Geyser Basin** - biggest geyser basen, hottest spring. Parking lot is very small. Lot of walking.
10. **MT Washburn** - tallest peak in the Park

Other things to do:

1. **Firehole Lake Drive** - one way road, few active geyser
2. **Tower Fall** - north end of the park, 30-40 min stop, short walk to Tower Fall. Black bear sightings
3. **Attend a campfire program** - see newspaper. Dress warm! You don't need to stay at a campground to go
4. **Get Junior Ranger packet** - 8-12 years, 13+ years old (kids activity)
5. **Mud Volcano** (mud pots) - not so interesting.
6. **Yellowstone Lake** - 20 miles wide, 14 miles long, 394' deep. 41 degrees most of the year.
7. **Grizzly & Wolf Discovery center** - outside the park! Not a zoo! Very active animals! end of day thing! \$15/person. Closes at 5PM but open every day.

Other videos to watch:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BQv-U9iUgIU>

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Tips for Photography @ Yellowstone

This video is a travel guide by Jeff Sibelius on capturing better photos and videos in Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks.

The video starts with Jeff mentioning the importance of planning your trip.

He advises you to consider the time of day you will be visiting different locations and the direction of the sunlight. He recommends shooting early to avoid crowds and get the best light.

Next, Jeff discusses what equipment to bring. He covers a wide range of cameras, from cell phones to DSLRs. He also recommends getting a gimbal for smoother video, a tripod for long-exposure photos, and a neutral-density filter.

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Things People Hate About Yellowstone

1. **Traffic and crowd** - summer is a super busy time for this park!
2. **Busy Parking lots** - they are almost always full at each attraction
3. **Too many animals** - people are not using turnouts to take pictures
4. **Nearly no cell service** - download maps in apps

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What No One Tells You

1. Temperature in July drops - you need heavy jackets
2. Speed limit changes at night
3. Animals are dangerous
4. Big park - 3-4 hours to travel from North to South
5. No internet in the park (no cell coverage) - need radio
6. Bring a paper map or download park in the phone
7. Bring packed launch in the park (too long lines in eating places)
8. Geysers go of every 90 minutes - pack a boxed lunch
9. Bring back pack
10. Restaurants close around 9-10 PM
11. Jackson Hole airport is BEAUTIFUL
12. Don't speed - 45 miles per hour - wild wife comes in front of you!
13. Plenty of gas stations inside the park
14. No cell coverage at all - need radio

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Things to Buy

Yellowstone Private Vehicle Pass for 7 Days

1. Download the Recreation.gov app for phone
2. Buy a private vehicle 7-day pass up to 15 passengers in the car
3. Print it out from your email
4. iPhone users can add the pass to your iPhone Wallet

Highly Recommended Things to Buy

I have researched these items for my own family, and the products that I have chosen are linked to Amazon.com. You can also buy them from Target or other retailers.

Sun Protection:

The sun can be harsh in Yellowstone since it's at such a high elevation. Bring a wide-brimmed hat or baseball cap for protection. You'll also want lots of high-SPF sunscreen and some SPF lip balm to avoid burned lips. Also, don't forget your sunglasses.

Fleece or Puffy Jacket

Even if you visit in the middle of summer, Yellowstone can be chilly since it's over 6000 feet (1800 meters) above sea level. Pack a cozy fleece or puffy jacket to wear for cold mornings and evenings. On my visit in mid-June, I ended up wearing mine at some point every day

Reusable Water Bottle

We plan to have bottled water from COSTCO/Walmart in the cars but a water bottle of your own is always a good idea.

Toilet Paper, Hand Sanitizer, and Wipes

There are many toilets around Yellowstone National Park, and most parking lots and trailheads have one. However, the toilets don't always have a good supply of toilet paper and hand sanitizer. Keep some with you, just in case.

Binoculars

If you have a pair, bring it with you.

Moisturizer

You may find the high mountain air really drying, so consider bringing some moisturizer.

Mosquitoes Repellent (DEET Free)

- [Repel Plant-Based Lemon Eucalyptus Insect Repellent 4 Ounces, Repels Mosquitoes Up To 6 Hours, 6-Pack](#)
- [3M Ultrathon Insect Repellent Lotion, Splash and Sweat Resistant](#)

Windsheild Wiper Fluid for Your Car

Your rental car should have the wiper fluid maxed out but I have heard from a number of folks on YT that some rental companies often do not max it out. It is best to buy a container from local grocery store once you rented the car. There are too many bugs that will hit your car on the way back in the evening and it is best to clean the car windshield to have better photos from inside the car.

Weather Appropriate Clothing

During August, the weather in Yellowstone National Park is typically warm during the day and cooler in

the evenings. Daytime temperatures can range from the low 70s (°F) to the low 80s (°F), with average highs around 79°F (26°C) and average lows around 40°F (4°C). It's important to note that weather can be unpredictable, and temperatures can vary based on factors like elevation and time of day, so it's best to come prepared with layers and appropriate clothing.

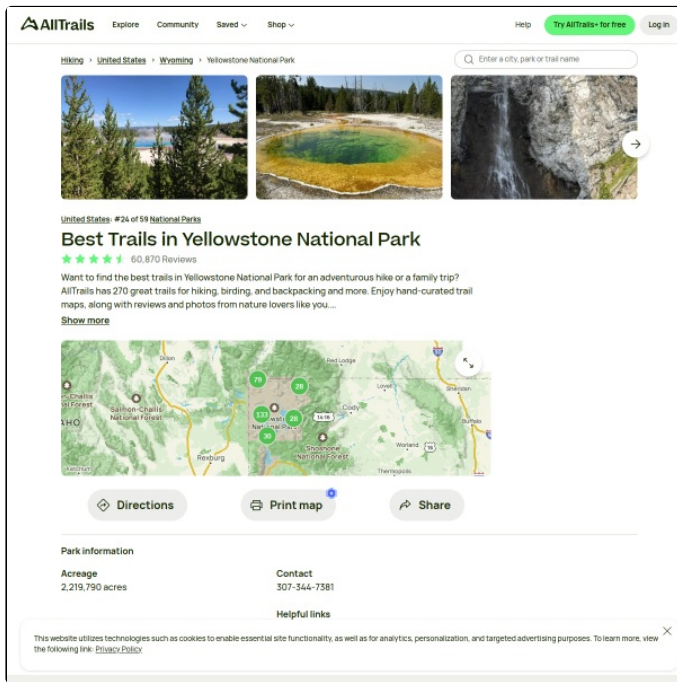
Portable Oxygen Canister (optional)

National Park has a high elevation, with the average height around 8,000 feet and some areas reaching higher altitudes. I am going to get a few of these for hikes. I never needed it before but I have seen YT videos recommending them for certain hikes.

[Boost Oxygen Pocket Size Natural Aroma 3 Liter Portable Oxygen Canister](#)

Audio Travel Guide by a History Professor Couple (optional)

255 days 2 hrs ago



Trails to Visit

Uncle Tom's Trail looks very interesting but appears to be closed now. Maybe it will reopen before we go in August.

349 days 3 hrs ago

Website:

<https://www.alltrails.com/parks/us/wyoming/yellowstone-national-park>

Driving Tips

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Map of Yellowstone

ENTRANCES

Yellowstone has 5 entrances: The West Entrance, the East Entrance, the Northeast Entrance, the North Entrance, and the South Entrance.

AIRPORT:

Bozeman Yellowstone International Airport is located only 1.5 hours away from Yellowstone - (Alaska, American Airlines, Delta, JetBlue, Southwest)

[Get Your Free Entrance Map](#)

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Pre-visit Check List

Here are some things that we need to consider before visiting:

- Download the Yellowstone map on the phone, as cell and data are going to be very hard to come by
- Download official apps for Yellowstone
- Buy [this trip planner](#) ahead of time, review it, and figure out how to use it.
- Have car rental confirmed

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Classic Bus Trip

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Grand Teton

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